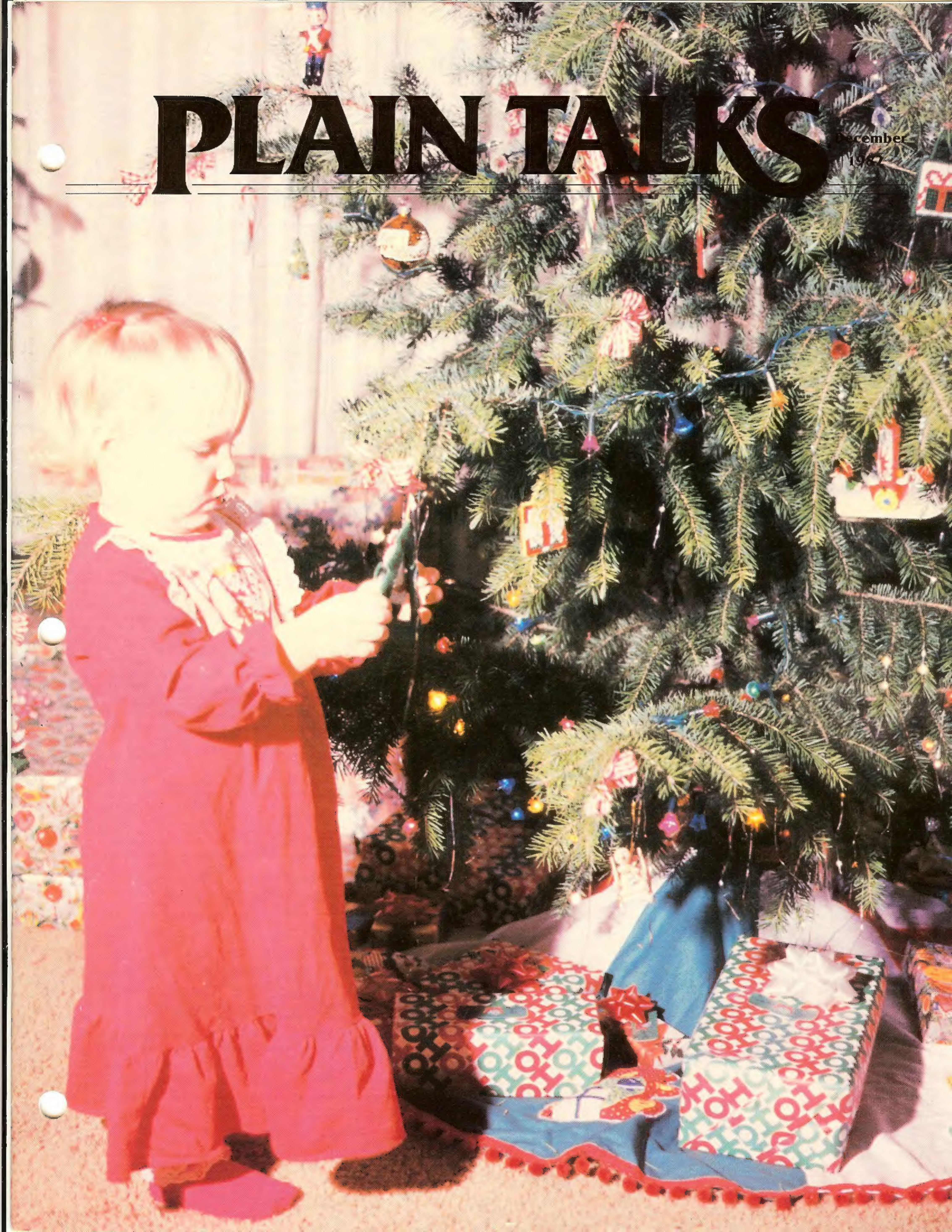


PLAIN TALKS

December
1982



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

Ashley Meagan Hickey, niece of Port Arthur employee Regina "Gina" Cook, admires some of the handmade decorations adorning the tree in Cook's apartment.

Cook makes special Christmas decorations using embroidery, needlepoint and latch-hooking.

Both Cook and her 20-month-old niece live in Nederland. A related story appears in this issue of *Plain Talks*.

The cover photograph was shot by Susan Gilley of Human Resources.

Joe Manena
Gulf State Utilities
Lake Charles, La.
Dear Sir:

I would like to thank Gulf States and a very efficient employee named Joe Manena for such outstanding and prompt service. It's not often these days one finds a serviceman who is courteous and as efficient as Mr. Manena. I would also like to compliment Mr. Manena on his sense of humor.

Although his energy-saving tip of watching television with the power off will save energy and reduce the interference, I find it more enjoyable with the power on. But thanks again to Gulf States and Joe Manena for locating the interference.

Sincerely,
Peggy Mercy

Editor's note: Joe Manena is a serviceman-1st class in Lake Charles.

Jack Saxon
Gulf States Utilities
Port Arthur, Texas
Dear Jack:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for all your efforts in helping us complete the Maxi-Serve project on schedule. They opened for business on Sept. 1, 1982. We completed the project within 90 days due to your efforts in aiding us to solve some major problems with Gulf Stats service to the building.

Again, thanks. If I can be of service to you or Gulf States in the future, please call.

Sincerely yours,
Ronnie Trahan
Vice President

Ritter Incorporated

Editor's Note: Jack Saxon is in Division Consumer Services.

Sue Kendall
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas
Dear Sue:

Thank you so much for coming to our center and training us in ways to conserve energy. This will help us help our clients.

I went ahead and asked for an energy audit for my house and Mr. George Stephens came on July 2. I am awaiting the results now.

All of us are hoping to conserve energy and cut our electric bills.

Thank you so much for all of the information you gave us.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Carol Simpson
Director
Beaumont Association
for Senior Citizens.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Smith, Hebert give a gallon

D. W. Smith and L. P. "Sonny" Hebert were recently given certificates commending each for having given one gallon of blood in blood drives held in the Port Arthur Division.

Both men are employed at the Port Arthur Service Center. Shown presenting the certificates to Smith (left) and Hebert (far right) is Delbert Zimmerly.



GSU official makes pedal power

Team work provides go power for this bicycle-generator to produce electricity to run several household appliances. In the driver's seat is Ed Kasper of Gulf States Utilities while Dave Ulrich of the Electrical Power Research Institute pedals in the rear.



The demonstration is part of "The Electric Connection," a live show developed by the Energy Education of Oak Ridge Associated Universities. Mobile energy units, such as "The Electric Connection," are produced to teach junior and senior high school students the complexities of the energy picture as it relates to electric energy. This mobile program was previewed at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville as part of the Edison Electric Institute's annual Utility Educators Conference held during the fair. Conferees represented educational service departments of utility companies.

BR employees host bazaar

Baton Rouge employees displayed their crafty talents at the North Boulevard Christmas Bazaar held in the auditorium on November 10 and 11. The colorful crafts included handmade Christmas tree ornaments, adopt-a-dolls, Raggedy Ann and Andys, decorative candy jars, wind chimes and many more beautiful items.



The bazaar was open for all GSU employees from 11 until 2 both days. Among the guests who came to browse were Mrs. Nancy Murrill, wife of Dr. Paul Murrill, chairman of the board, and Mrs. Jo Hiter, wife of G. W. Hiter, superintendent-consumer services.

A \$25 door prize was awarded in a drawing from names of

those who registered before entering the bazaar. The lucky winner was Mrs. Linda Venable, clerk-credit department. Congratulations to Linda and to the many GSU employees participants who made this bazaar such a success!

Site inspected

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's senior resident inspector found nothing wrong with construction activities at the River Bend site during August.

In a report to the NRC regional office in Arlington, Texas, inspector Ross L. Brown said he spent 104 hours examining various aspects of construction at the power plant during the period of Aug. 1-31.

The inspector toured most of the site to observe construction process, general job practices and fire protection. In addition, he checked how the plant licensee had followed up on previous findings, reviewed document control and observed installation of the electrical system. No violations or deviations were identified.

River Bend is about 58 percent complete with a late 1985 in-service date.

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the thrift plan trustee for the month of November 1982, covering employee deductions and company contributions through October 1982, included the purchase of 16,413 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$225,678.75. The average cost per share was \$12.75.



The Volunteers of America Home for young children will benefit from a drive organized by (from left) Evylen Kendrick, Doris Bodden and Lisa Capehart.

Playing Santa Claus

by Dona Austin

Not all parents want their children home for the holidays, but Baton Rouge Division employees made an extra effort earlier this year to ensure that some forgotten youngsters will have a merry Christmas.

Hazel McAndrew, senior clerk-Customer Accounts, first suggested that North Boulevard employees do something to help the needy rather than drawing names to exchange gifts. Evylen Kendrick, clerk-Customer Accounts, got the ball rolling with a raffle for a Christmas toy fund. By selling tickets for a color television at \$1 apiece, Baton Rouge Division employees raised \$1,746. Charles Foss, section head of the Plank Road branch office and owner of the winning raffle ticket, won't be the only winner, however. The money is being used to purchase toys for youngsters in two Baton Rouge homes for unwanted and abused children.

Blundon Home, a facility for unwanted and abused children from 10 to 17 years of age, gave the employees a "want" list. Kendrick believes that the list will be completely filled. In addition, the employees were to host a Dec. 18 party in the Volunteers of America Home for Abused Children, where residents' ages range from birth to 10 years. The children will be treated to gifts, refreshments and entertainment.

Not only were the employees successful in raising money for the venture, but they also persuaded an area retailer to offer merchandise at reduced rates for the cause.

According to Kendrick, the fund-raising effort was truly division-wide, with an employee from each location serving on a central planning committee. Additionally, other employees served as collectors.

Members of the Children's Christmas Fund Committee were Diane Cambre, Peggy Evans, Pris Gallagher, Lisa Capehart, Doris Bodden, Connie Fabre, Dianne Brandon, Sharon Lamousin, Debbie Green, Kendrick and McAndrew.

Collectors were David Martinez and Linda Sanchez, Willow Glen; John Honore and Debbie Green, Louisiana Station; Myra Ponthier, Zachary; Lena Humphrey, Gonzales; Ella Brown, Port Allen; Janice Fields, Gas Department; Foss, Plank Road branch office; Carol Cronin and Sundae Holm, the Baton Rouge Savings office; Bill Noble and Tommy Fabre, Government Street; Monique Hollier, the meter-reading section; Robbie Zeringue and Cindy Cantu, Choctaw; Glenda Boyd, Denham Springs; and Janice Laney, River Bend.

McAndrew and Kendrick reveal that planning is already underway for an even bigger fund drive next Christmas.

The Christmas Aura

Christmas has to be the most-widely-observed birthday celebration in the whole world, and in the United States it has become the most visibly celebrated of all holidays.

But the glow that surrounds the Christ Child's birthday observance apparently embraces people of many faiths and many cultures.

Three GSU employees who are natives of other countries described some of the differences between the U.S. version of Christmas, and that celebrated in India, Pakistan and Japan. A fourth employee who is of Hispanic origin discussed his family's customs.

Fairy tale Christmas

Makiko Tajima, a confidential records clerk in payroll, Beaumont, recalls that Christmas was "a joyous time, like a party" for her Buddhist family in Miyazaki, a city in Kyushu Island. "It was like a fairy tale," she says, noting that she received gifts from Santa Claus as a child. Her parents also presented their children with a small cake decorated with Old Saint Nick and his reindeer. Japanese shops were glittery with tinsel during the holiday season, she adds.

But other holidays were more significant to her family, points out Tajima, who has since converted to Christianity and now belongs to Beaumont's First Baptist Church. The three-day Bon celebration each August centered around the belief that the souls of the ancestors were reunited with living family members at that time. On the first day of the Bon, a fire or candle was lighted at the doorway so the ancestors could find their way. Paper lanterns were



Makiko Tajima

placed at the altar in each home. Finally, each family would place food and flowers in a small boat, then place the vessel into the river to journey back to the after-world.

The most special of all holidays, however, was the New Year, and Tajima admits that even now that holiday is especially important to her. "I clean house completely and get everything ready for the New Year. I still have to do that," she laughs.

Now that she is a Christian, Christmas has taken on a new significance. "To me, as a Christian, Christmas is such a significant date because of the birth of Christ."

Tajima, who is called "Maki" by her friends at GSU, came to the United States in 1975, then joined the company in 1977. She earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Kagoshima.

As a Moslem, Altaf Taufique recognizes Jesus as one of the prophets, but not as the son of God. Even so, he says, "Christmas is not a major religious holiday to me, but as a family affair, I think it's a real nice tradition."

Taufique, a native of Karachi in Pakistan, came to the United States in 1974 to continue his education after earning a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Karachi. He earned a master's degree in economics from Central Missouri State in Warrensburg and did some work toward his doctorate at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He also worked as an economics instructor at Chadron State College in Nebraska. In 1979, Taufique returned to Pakistan to marry. The Taufiques have lived in Beaumont since he joined the company as an economist in Corporate Planning in September 1980.

Since Taufique and his wife, Fauzia, have a 9-month-old daughter, Sarah, he says his family will probably observe Santa Claus and certain other holiday traditions once the little girl is a little older.

Pakistani gift-giving

Although not many Pakistani residents are Christian, Taufique was familiar with many Christmas traditions since he attended a Catholic school as a child. He recalls that Pakistani parents often gave their children money as gifts, but Taufique says he prefers the American custom of exchanging gifts, which he believes "shows more care."

The Taufiques will observe only the secular traditions of Christmas because their Moslem faith "is pretty much central" to their lives, Taufique asserts. The two Eid Festivals are the most significant religious observances for Moslems. One Eid celebration, held in commemoration of the prophet Abraham, is observed by butchering a goat or steer.



Altaf Taufique

The other is the celebration after the holy month of Ramadan, which calls for 30 days of sun-up to sundown fasting.

In Conroe, the Olaf Lovett family celebrates Christmas as Catholics — but also from the perspective of Lovett as a native of the Republic of India and his wife, Eileen, as a native of East Africa.

Lovett, whose English surname came from British ancestors, retains other vestiges of his Indian inheritance. In India, he reveals, “Everyone with a Christian background has a manger scene set up in their homes. Over the front door, they hang a star with a light in the middle. This lets others know they are Christians celebrating Christmas.”

Baked goods exchange

Lovett and his neighbors back in India shared one unusual tradition. Each holiday season, all the neighbors exchanged baked goods, he says.

Unfortunately, says Lovett, some Americans — and he includes himself, since he was naturalized in 1975 — have lost sight of the religious aspects of Christmas.

“Since coming to this country, I have conformed to the idea of Christmas in which you buy many, many gifts,” he laments. But now, he adds, his family, which includes three children,

will attempt to regain some of the original sense of Christmas “by getting away from the commercialism some.”

He continues, “There’s way too much emphasis on buying gifts than on Christ’s birthday.” Even so, he concedes that he “felt bad” the first year his family lived in Conroe, when he couldn’t afford Christmas presents quite as fancy as those given to neighborhood youngsters. “I made up for it in following years,” he admits ruefully.



Olaf Lovett

Pinata featured

Armando Rosales, who was reared in the Golden Triangle by his Spanish-speaking paternal grandparents, says he vaguely recalls having a pinata each Christmas. The decorated pottery or papier-mache container was filled with candies and was featured at several family celebrations, including birthday parties, remembers Rosales. A youngster would break open the container with a baseball bat or stick.

Rosales says his great-grandparents immigrated from Spain to Monterrey, a city in northeast Mexico, where his grandfather was born in 1901. Later, his grandfather, Andres Rosales, moved to Austin, where he married Juanita Espinoza. The couple lived in Corpus Christi and San Antonio before settling

in the Golden Triangle in the southeast corner of Texas.

Rosales, 31, earned an associate’s degree in drafting from Lamar University in May, then began work at Gulf States shortly afterwards as a utility worker I in Office Services.

The Port Arthur resident says he readily understands conversational Spanish, but is “disappointed” that he did not learn to speak the language better. “I think it would have been helpful to me to know Spanish as a second language,” he says.

But Rosales plans to ensure that his son, Anthony Michael, learns enough about his Hispanic background to “help him to be proud of what he is.” Rosales says the 3-year-old child will also learn to appreciate the heritage of his mother, who is of Swedish and French origin.

Presently, Rosales and his wife, Janice Lea, are taking care “not to take the joy of Santa Claus away from a child.” Nevertheless, adds Rosales, “We’re trying to emphasize the love of Jesus Christ.”

Editor’s Note: Nina Wiley provided some information for this story.



Armando Rosales

Holiday Handcrafts

Regina "Gina" Cook's Nederland apartment resembles a Christmas wonderland this month — proof that one requires neither children nor a fireplace to celebrate the season with style.

Cook, a clerk in Port Arthur credit and collections, spends her lunch hours and coffee breaks year-round creating needlepoint, embroidery and latch-hook wall hangings, tree decorations, mobiles and other knick-knacks. Not everything has a Christmas

theme, she points out. "When I'm almost through with an item, then it's usually too much fun to put down and I'll take it home to finish in the evenings," she says.

Although Cook is single, she shares her delightful decorations with her family. She gives some as gifts to her 20-month-old niece, Ashley Meagan Hickey, among others.

Among Cook's holiday creations are a tree skirt featuring a circle of cotton-stuffed animal

likenesses and felt stockings depicting Santa Claus.

Cook has worked fulltime for GSU for the past three years, and for another year before that as a Vocational Office Education employee while in high school.

She reveals that she started her hobby by using kits and, although she still uses some kits, gradually acquired enough skills to work free-hand, too.



Cook places a hand-made ornament on her tree.



Cook stitched up these tree decorations recently.



Trombonists Dan Wiseman (center, with mustache) and Bill Brooks (next to Wiseman) play with the Beaumont Brass Consort.

by Mike Rodgers

The Company Brass

Usually, when we say that someone "has a lot of brass," we're talking about a person with an abundance of nerve or gall. Two GSU employees are part of a group that literally has a lot of brass.

As members of the six-person Beaumont Brass Consort, GSUers Dan Wiseman and Bill Brooks are both trombonists. Wiseman is a senior management development specialist in Human Resources and Brooks is supervisor of community and institutional programs in Consumer Services.

According to Wiseman, a brass consort, or ensemble, is comprised of trumpets, trombones, a tuba and occasionally a baritone horn. What kind of music does an ensemble play — rock, country, jazz? Actually, they have a very old and honorable tradition, he insists. Brass ensembles reportedly originated in Europe,

where players perfected their craft in churches, dances and in festivals. Much of it was performed at court functions for royalty. It is the music of the Baroque era — the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries — and it is the works of Bach, Handel and other German and Italian composers.

"They were the Rolling Stones of their day," says Wiseman, "or, perhaps, the Tommy Dorseys of their day is more like it." In the old days, every town or village had its own group. In England, brass ensembles are still a national institution, with many businesses acting as sponsors. The tradition crossed the ocean to the United States, and is carried on today through such organizations as the Salvation Army Band.

Beaumont's consort has a much briefer history. Wiseman got the ball rolling last August by put-

ting out a general appeal for anyone interested. The group really got rolling in October with rehearsals; since then, the group has held several public performances. It is modeled after the Canadian Brass Ensemble, using much of what that group from across the northern border performs.

Wiseman says the aim of the Beaumont Brass Consort is to "take music to people who don't usually get to hear it." The group has already appeared at a nursing home and has performed twice in the First United Methodist Church in Beaumont. In December, the group was to participate with the Southeast Texas Chorale in a madrigal dinner, a feast patterned after a medieval meal. In 1983, the group hopes to hold a public concert in the spring and to perform at the Renaissance Festival in the fall.

Egg-stra-Special Christmas Decorations



1

by Sheila W. Soileau

Cathy Howell doesn't just feast on turkey at Christmas — she decorates her Christmas tree with turkey eggs!

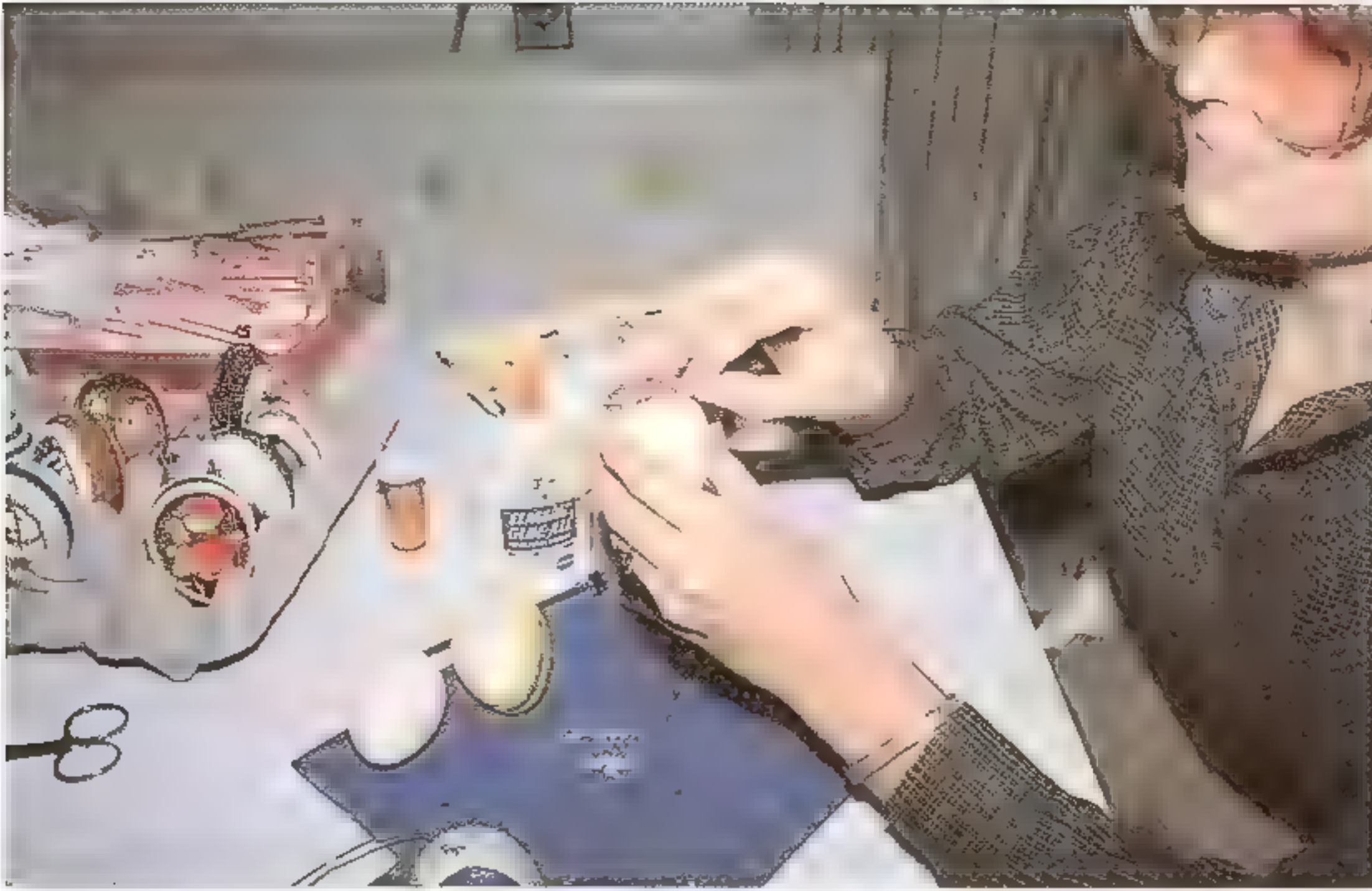
The Nelson Coal Plant departmental clerk, Accounting, mastered the unusual art of transforming turkey eggs into tree ornaments under the instruction of an aunt. The aunt, a Texan, uses eggs from the peacocks she raises, but Howell substituted the larger turkey eggs. She buys the eggs from a

Temple, Texas, hatchery at 20 eggs for \$1. Howell also purchases beads, trim, glitter and other ornament fixings from a Temple warehouse.

This is Howell's first year to make the ornaments, but she has already given away about a dozen and plans to give more as Christmas gifts. Next year, however, she plans to sell her creations for about \$10 to \$12 apiece.

2



3

In addition to those she has made for others, Howell is making enough to adorn her own Christmas tree, which she plans to cut about a week before Christmas.

To begin her ornaments, Howell uses an ice pick to punch a small hole in both ends of an egg. Next, she blows the egg out of the shell. Depending upon what kind of decoration she wants, she will use a number of items to trim the egg. She sometimes uses cuticle scissors to cut a window in an egg, then places a tiny ornament inside. She uses the end of a sewing needle to place little beads exactly where she wants them, then uses a glue gun to stick on each bead, ribbon, glitter or other trim.

Howell estimates that it takes from four to five hours to complete a single egg.

4**5**

- 1** *Howell punches a hole in each end of the egg with an ice pick.*
- 2** *She cuts a window with cuticle scissors.*
- 3** *A sewing needle helps her place beads precisely where she wants them.*
- 4** *One completed ornament features a beaded tree.*
- 5** *A tiny ornament is placed inside the window of another ornament.*

SERVICE AWARDS

40
years



Emma Dru McMickin
Sys. Eng. Design
Beaumont

30
years



Carl E. Courtney
Plant Production
Baton Rouge-LS



Andrew Landry
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Jack E. Strickland
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Leonard W. Desaw
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Albert Louviere
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Willie Duhon
Plant Production
Lake Charles-RSN



George Moore
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Fred J. Roffman
Electric T&D
Beaumont

RETIREE UPDATE

Sideliner honored with awards

George H. West, a member of the Lake Charles Sideliners, was the recipient of two awards during October 1982, according to correspondent Walter House.

On Oct. 26, the Greater Lake Charles Water Company named that city's first water plant facility the George Harrison West Water Plant. West was given this honor in appreciation for his dedication and professional service to the community and the water industry.

West was also named as only the second recipient of the Glen T. Kellop award at the Southwest Section meeting of the American Water Works held in Oklahoma.

Buckley leads retiree group

W. T. "Bill" Buckley was elected president of the Beaumont Division Sideliners Club for 1983 during an election at the group's Nov. 19 Thanksgiving party and meeting.

Other new officers are J. W. Kirkland, vice president; Joseph Fontana, secretary-treasurer; L. C. McCullar, co-chairmen of the program committee; Lenora Masterson and Ruth Adams, co-chairmen of the activity committee; and Ralph Spafford and S. L. Adams, co-chairmen of the service and information committee.

Recent activities held for the group included a Sept. 13 trip to Hill Top Herb Farm in Cleveland, Texas; a Sept. 16 trip to Eureka, Ark., to view the Passion Play; and a Nov. 16 trip to the Texas Renaissance Festival.

On Oct. 16, Sideliners were served catfish, shrimp and all the trimmings at an outing at the Live Wires camp near Silsbee. Live Wires members cooked the food.



Conroe honors retirees

Two Conroe workers were honored with a retirement party when they retired earlier this year. H. S. Herford, a 35-year veteran of Gulf States, who worked as a truck driver, and Emory Shead, a utility worker with 37 years at GSU, retired on June 1, 1982.

In the photograph taken at the retirement party are, left to right, John Conley, division vice president, Herford, Shead, and Dan Goodman, general line supervisor.

Newly-wed retiree lives in Dallas

The former Thelma H. Carson, who retired from GSU in 1966, married Henry G. Schneider Sept. 18. Although the new Mrs. Schneider had been living in Denver, the couple has moved to 6215 Woodland Drive, Dallas 75225.

Mrs. Schneider, 81, worked for the company 27 years. Her last job was in charge of the kitchen planning center.

Deaths given

Among retirees who have died are Sibbie Ristoff of Beaumont, who died Nov. 5; Harold Westrope of Lake Charles, who died Nov. 11; and Arthur Green of Beaumont, who died on Oct. 19.

Ristoff is survived by three daughters and five sons while Westrope is survived by his wife, Mae, and two daughters.

Dates given for retirement

Among those retiring on Jan. 1, 1983 will be Bill H. Humphries, Service Supervisor, Gas Department in Baton Rouge; Anna J. Atkins, Engineering Assistant, Engineering Services in Beaumont; and Steve Dent, Utility Worker I, Plant Production at Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge.

Sideliners hear hospice speaker

A registered nurse explained hospice services to members of the Lake Charles Division Sideliners Club during the group's September meeting.

During the September session, Constance M. Darbonne, nurse coordinator for Home Health Agency and a member of the board of directors of Hospice Home Care Inc. The modern hospice concept is a program of supportive services providing physical, emotional, spiritual and social care for the terminally ill and their families, Mrs. Darbonne explained. Volunteers and professionals provide the services.

At the group's November meeting, members paid tribute to George West, for whom the original water plant for the Greater Lake Charles Water Co. is named. The plant was once owned and operated by Gulf States.

The Lake Charles club has decided to continue its practice of holding meetings every other month.



Seven give fair share plus

Seven Baton Rouge division employees were recognized as double Fair Share contributors for the 1983 United Way campaign.

Pictured seated, left to right, are Daniel Brown, Gonzales; Peggy Evans, Baton Rouge accounting; and Michael Ephrom, Louisiana Station; standing, left to right, are Dan Campbell, Willow Glen; Irvin Howard, Louisiana Station; Steve Campbell, Denham Springs; and Ken Johnson, Louisiana Station.



Twins born in Lake Charles

Dennis and Eva Singletary and their sons, 10-year-old Jon and 5-year-old Nathan, were hoping for a girl. On March 17, 1982, their wish came true — twice. Twin daughters, Erin Nichole and Karen Denise arrived weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces and each measuring 19 inches long. Dennis Singletary is accounting superintendent in the Lake Charles division.

McGuire surprised with party

The Orange service department surprised Glen McGuire with a birthday party on Oct. 28. Co-workers presented him with a birthday cake and a western shirt. The cake was decorated in a western motif with miniature cowboy boots and hat. The original cake, not pictured, had to be extinguished with a fire extinguisher due to the large number of birthday candles necessary to estimate McGuire's present age, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Doris Wallace.



Senior finalist in pageant

MaKala, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Romero, was selected as first runner-up to the queen at the annual CavOilCade coronation held at the Port Arthur Civic Center. "Kala" is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School where she is an honor student, lead cheerleader for the varsity football team and participates and holds offices in many school activities. After graduation next spring, "Kala" hopes to attend LSU. Her mother, Jean Romero, is in the accounting department in Port Arthur.



Shower given by co-workers

Office Services co-workers gave Michelle Pinkney a baby shower on October 25 in the Edison Plaza dining hall. Michelle, who is expecting twins in December, is a graphics technician in Beaumont. She and her husband, John, have one daughter, 4-year-old Aishia.





Suggestion brings check for meterman

J. C. Queen, meterman 1/class, Port Arthur Division, submitted a suggestion for developing a more efficient magnetic tape tester. The 36-year GSU veteran is shown receiving an \$80 check for his suggestion from Raymond Kemp, meter/service supervisor in Port Arthur.



Family welcomes newest member

On Sept. 9, 1982, Michael S. Durham, Jr. was born weighing in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces and 19 1/4 inches long. Proud parents are Michael and Rosemary Durham. The Durham family also includes three daughters, Sherri, 15, Michelle, 14, and Amy, 12. Michael, Sr., is manager-occupational health and safety in Beaumont.

Child wins pageant title

A Northern District of Baton Rouge Division child recently won the title of Delta King in the 0-23 month age division in the Delta Queen USA Pageant in New Orleans. Kevin Lee Burdette, son of Jimmy and Denise Burdette, was 19 months old when he won the title this summer. Kevin won a \$200 savings bond, crown, robe, scepter and a six-foot trophy. Jimmy is with the T&D line in Zachary.



Daughter born to Kennedys

Tara Nicole Kennedy weighed seven pounds, 1/2 ounce and measured 19 3/4 inches on her birthday, Sept. 14, 1982. Her father is six-year employee, Ronnie Kennedy, 1st class repairman at Willow Glen.



Parker honored with party

Don Parker was given a surprise going-away party Sept. 29 by his former co-workers. Parker, who was district accounting superintendent in Port Arthur, transferred to the mid-county office. He was presented with a portable television (he's an avid television watcher) and several other gifts.

Welch wins Hawaii trip

Barbara Welch, a Western Division employee, won a trip to Hawaii through a sweepstakes drawing in an Oak Ridge pharmacy. The trip, valued at \$4,500, was one of four awarded nationwide by a chain of independent pharmacies.

Beaumonters say aloha to Gracey

LeNelle Gracey, a Beaumont employee, departed Oct. 7 for an eight-day, three-island Hawaiian vacation.

She accompanied her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Voss of Wills Point, who were celebrating their 33rd wedding anniversary.

Before she left, Gracey's co-workers in Materials Planning gave her a cake inscribed with "Aloha, LeNelle."



Those who wear seat belts may be more likely to arrive home safely for the holidays!

Buckling Up for Safety

Bill Compton narrowly escaped serious injury Oct. 20 when the GSU car he was driving burst into flames following a bridge-top collision.

And the area planning engineer in Transmission Planning, Beaumont, partly credits his survival to the fact that he was wearing a seat belt.

Compton was heading west from Lake Charles across the Calcasieu River Bridge. About one-third across the span, he had to stop because of a stalled car farther ahead. An 18-wheeler truck traveling two vehicles behind Compton failed to stop, however, and struck the intervening van and car before plowing into Compton's car.

The company car was shoved 109 feet up the bridge before wedging between the 18-wheeler and the concrete barrier. By then, both vehicles were ablaze.

"The seatbelt kept me from being knocked unconscious or injured so seriously that I couldn't escape the burning vehicle," Compton asserts.

Compton is only one of thousands of motorists who have claimed seat belts saved their lives, notes Ray Thompson, GSU safety coordinator. "Unfortunately," Thompson continues, "many thousands of motorists are not yet sold on the value of using seat belts."

The first automobile fatality reportedly occurred Sept. 14, 1899. Since then, more than 2 million persons have died as a result of traffic accidents.

Statistics show, however, that the rising number of fatalities could be slowed by one simple procedure — wearing a seat belt.

"Seat belt use is mandatory in most cases, according to company safety policy, and for a good reason," says Thompson. "The National Safety Council estimates that about 14,000 of the 55,000 persons expected to die in traffic accidents in 1982 could have been saved if they had used seat belts," Thompson continues. According to council estimates, one of every five vehicle accidents results in personal injuries.

And GSU safety records seem to support the theory that seat belts can make a difference. Typically, the company experiences from 175 to 200 reportable vehicle accidents each year. In 1980, for example, 178 vehicle accidents were reported, but only six employees suffered personal injuries. "We can't be sure that all employees always wear seat belts, but in the 1980 accidents which were formally investigated, the employees said they were wearing the restraints," notes Thompson. Under the council's formula, 35 employees could have

been injured in the 178 accidents.

That same year, the number of deaths attributed to traffic accidents in Louisiana was 1,236; in Texas, the total was 4,414.

Since many employees must drive on the job, the company's Accident Control Manual contains several transportation safety rules, including a requirement that all occupants of company vehicles wear seat belts.

The Safety Department also offers classes in defensive driving, including the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course and the nationally-recognized Smith System of Driving, a hands-on course. Both courses stress the importance of using body restraints while traveling, Thompson adds.

To help employees promote seat belt use away from the job, too, the Safety Department encourages GSUers to borrow a film entitled "Room to Live." The film, which is narrated by an actual highway patrolman, is suitable for showing to school groups of all ages, clubs and other organizations, Thompson notes.

According to Thompson, the narrating officer's most memorable line is at the end, when he comments, "In my 23 years of service, I've never unbuckled a dead man."

ON THE MOVE

Ancelot, Harvey J. Jr., Lake Charles, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Barnett, Thompson W., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Bates, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Beach, Brian A., Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Borel, Dwayne L., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Bourgeois, Stephen P., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Bourque, Gregory W., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Cline, Danny R., Louisiana Station, to insulator-3rd class, Plant Production.

Cozad, Frederick D., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Davis, Donald R., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production.

Dillon, Tracy S., New Caney, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

English, Clifton O., Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Fancher, Donna C., Baton Rouge, to stenographer-senior, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Fauntleroy, Donald E., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production.

Fountain, Michael O., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Galassi, Frank G., Huntsville, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Gammage, Frank W., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Gauthreaux, Kevin N., Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Guillory, Robert E., Orange, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Hamilton, Esquardo H., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Hamilton, Lee F., Beaumont, to storekeeper, Electric T&D.

Hartner, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Hooker, Lee D., Nelson Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Hooper, Monroe L., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Hutchison, Daniel E., Beaumont, to utility man, Electric T&D.

James, Eric M., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Jennings, Mark O., Orange, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Johnson, William Jr., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Lee, Danny, Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Leggett, Travis L., Zachary, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Lewis, Leroy J., Beaumont, to storekeeper, Electric T&D.

Matte, Michael W., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

McCarver, Clata P., New Caney, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.



McKinley, Marcy H., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Milton, David S., Baton Rouge, to engineering helper, Electric T&D.

Moore, James D. Jr., Neches Station, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Moore, Joseph E., Port Arthur, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Moore, Steven L., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Nash, Carl T. Jr., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Paul, Phillip I., Port Arthur, to garage worker, Electric T&D.

Paul, Robert M. Jr., Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Potter, Harry H. III, Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Prince, Ronald J., Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Rabalais, James S., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Reed, Leonard R., Conroe, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Retherford, Charles M., Port Arthur, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Reynolds, John C., Nelson Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Shackelford, Cynthia A., Port Arthur, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Smith, Morris Jr., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Staton, John A., Conroe, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Stephenson, Chris E., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Summers, Timothy L., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Tyler, Robert E. Jr., Nelson Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Walker, Rhonda W., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Corporate Services.

Welch, James R., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Ylander, Otto F., Willow Glen, to master repairman, Plant Production.

Electric car study continues

Despite apparent low public interest in electrically-powered cars, General Motors is continuing to develop systems for such vehicles, according to an article in the September issue of *Popular Science* magazine.

The company reportedly is committed to developing long-life, nickel-zinc batteries for future commuter cars. Using these is said to reduce by half the battery size and weight of the more traditional lead-acid automotive batteries.

GM is trying to develop a battery pack that will last about 40,000 miles. Although the program has been delayed from the targeted 1985, it is still alive, the magazine reported.

Bill inserts feature ads

Coupons and advertising for theaters, toothpaste, automobiles and other consumer products and services are included in the bills which Detroit Edison sends to its customers.

According to the *State Energy Newsletter*, Detroit Edison is participating in the experiment upon the request of the Michigan Public Service Commission, which looks at the sale of advertising space as a way to raise additional revenues for the company. The PSC maintains the revenue could be spent on energy conservation programs and to hold utility rates down.

ARM supplies key information

A new system that will help utilities determine when — and which — household appliances use the most electricity has been developed by EPRI and Robinton Products Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif.

Called the Electric ARM (appliance research metering), the system will tell the utility which appliances comprise the bulk of residential use at any given time — without separately wiring them. This information is expected to help utilities develop effective conservation and load-management programs and prepare load forecasts. For example, if a utility is considering implementing time-of-use rates or other load-management programs, it needs detailed customer use histories.



Previously, such information could be obtained only by separately wiring and installing individual electric meters on key appliances — an expensive process that was often also inconvenient for the customer.

The Electric ARM system, however, can reduce cost and customer inconvenience. It consists of a small box — about the size of an electric timer — and a receiver outside the house. The appliance, such as a refrigerator, space heater or dryer, is plugged into the small box, which is plugged into an ordinary electric outlet. Radio signals are sent from the box through household wiring to the receiver, which collects electrical use information on up to eight appliances.

Research center opens in Haslet

The world's most advanced facility for the research and testing of transmission line towers was dedicated in ceremonies in Haslet, Texas, Sept. 28, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) announced.

Called the Transmission Line Mechanical Research Facility, the \$9.5 million operation will provide a center for major national research programs aimed at both improving existing transmission towers and designing new ones. It is located on a 254-acre site in Haslet, which is 16 miles north of Fort Worth.

Headquartered in Palo Alto, Calif., EPRI is a non-profit organization dedicated to research aimed at improving all aspects of electricity generation, transmission and distribution. It is voluntarily funded by more than 630 American electric utilities, including Gulf States.

The new transmission line test facility will be owned and operated by Adelphon-TLMRF Inc. EPRI has provided construction financing and has guaranteed payment of long-term industrial revenue bonds. It will provide a one-of-a-kind site for the testing of large transmission line towers and foundations, and will provide utilities with information on construction techniques and maintenance methods.

"This type of research will be very important to electric utilities since they are expected to install more than 100,000 miles of new transmission lines during the next 20 years at a cost of about \$30 billion," noted Paul Lyons, EPRI project manager. Research conducted at the facility is expected to help utilities maintain or improve their present reliability at lower costs.

Transmission towers, poles and foundations will be subjected to a battery of tests that will simulate actual stresses that would be experienced in the field.

Operation of the facility will mean an increase of about \$2 million annually to the Haslet area economy. It should employ about 25 test technicians, iron workers and maintenance personnel.

A Gift

by Susan Gilley

Christmas may be the traditional time to exchange gifts, but Nelson Coal Plant's Tom Donohue gave a gift this past February that could last a lifetime.

Since then, the second class repairman, a bachelor, has acted as a "big brother" to 8-year-old Brent Nichols. A 22-year-old outdoorsman, Tom admits that little Brent had not yet developed much athletic prowess. Nevertheless, the two spend at least one day each weekend canoeing, participating in Cub Scout or other extracurricular activities or sometimes going to the movies or to Astro World.

And the pair discovered they are both the real-life little brothers of their respective families. Tom has a 27-year-old sister and a 32-year-old brother, while Brent's four older brothers and sisters range in age from 13 to their early 20s.

But there was a deeper reason for Tom's involvement with the United Way-supported Big Brother-Big Sister Association.

"My father died when I was 15," reveals Tom. Since the Spring City, Pa., native recalled his need for male leadership, he decided to serve as a big brother to someone like Brent, who comes from a broken home. According to Tom, the organization carefully screens all applicants for the program before making assignments. Tom even had to fill out a four-page questionnaire asking about his likes and dislikes.

"It asked whether you wanted a fat boy, a skinny boy or if it didn't matter. It asked if you wanted a boy who smoked or didn't smoke and if you wanted one who read comic books or not. The aim was to make a match

based on compatibility," he explains. "Understandably," he continues, "mothers are reluctant to put their little kid with a complete stranger."

Once the assignment was made, however, it was worth the months Tom had waited. "It's been a new experience for me, especially since I've never raised kids of my own. I had talked to some older friends who had been involved in the program before me, and they told me that being a big brother would be fulfilling — and they were right."

Besides the activities that Tom plans for Brent, the Big Brother-Big Sister Association also sponsors events, as well as holding training sessions for the big sisters and big brothers.

Participants are cautioned "not to become too wrapped up in

family problems" surrounding their little brother or sister, says Tom. And Tom and the others must remember that they are not substitute parents — only substitute siblings.

Co-workers at Nelson Coal have met Brent, too, since Tom brings him to company picnics. Sheila Soileau, a personnel clerk at the plant, says what impressed her most about Tom's big brother role is that he "doesn't seem to worry about it disrupting his social life."

Tom insists he's not sacrificing all his free time, but he admits that he doesn't have a lot of time for himself. In addition to working the 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift at the plant and spending time with Brent, the young man attends night classes at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, where he's taking six hours as part of the mechanical engineering program. He's been with GSU 1½ years since graduating from the Williamson Trade School near Philadelphia.

"When Brent and I first met, we were two strangers. We went out and started kicking a ball around and talking. It took a while, but now we're into a pretty good relationship," he says.

Tom adds that he's learned not to always try to do things just to please Brent. "You can't let your little brother take advantage of you — you have to learn to say 'no' sometimes, too."

While Brent and Tom had planned a variety of activities for December, the two will not see each other at Christmas because Tom will head home to Pennsylvania for the holidays.

After all, Tom thinks it would be nice to visit his own big brother.



Brent and Tom

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